

How To Know One Hundred

# Wild Birds

of Wisconsin and  
the Northwest

By D. Lange

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School Education Company

—Publishers—

Minneapolis, Minnesota



# Wild Birds

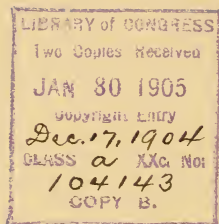
**of Wisconsin and  
the Northwest**

*Supervisor of Nature Study,  
St. Paul Public Schools.*

*Author of Handbook of Nature Study, Our Native  
Birds, etc. Lecturer on Birds and  
Nature Study.*

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.  
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**BY DIETRICH LANGE.**

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# INTRODUCTION.



The birds in this booklet are arranged in a manner which requires no previous knowledge about birds.

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## Introduction.

The illustrations for these birds can be found by young and old in woods and fields and often in our own door-yards. With very little thought and patience anyone may identify, one hundred or more birds, if he sees the living bird. Open eyes and ears is all that is needed; an opera glass is sometimes serviceable, but it is not necessary.

The following points are of importance for naming a bird: *Color and size, call notes and song, manner of flight and feeding, nesting habits, place and season, any peculiar habits.* The English Sparrow and the Robin are convenient standards of size. The Robin is 10 inches and the English Sparrow  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches long.

The call notes and songs of birds are of great importance. Birds are often heard before they are seen, and while their calls and songs are difficult to describe, they are easy to remember. The Crow, Blue Jay, Robin, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Northern Yellowthroat and many others are as easily named from their calls or songs as from their colors. The other points mentioned should also be observed to avoid wild guesses. The adult males of many birds are more brightly colored than the females and the young.

The best time of the day to study birds is in the morning and early forenoon and again towards evening. The best seasons are spring and early summer, but winter is also a good

## *Introduction.*

time. After a little practice one can find birds at nearly all hours, seasons and places.

Never run after birds; rather sit down and keep quiet, and the birds will often come to you. One person going alone will see more birds than two or three persons, and a noisy crowd will see very few or none. Birds are justly suspicious of noisy crowds.

Private persons, graded and common schools, should not make or buy mounted birds or collections of eggs. Every egg collected means the destruction of a bird, and every bird mounted is apt to mean the killing and maiming of three or four. The living bird on bush or lake is a source of a much higher pleasure to us than a dead skin in a neglected collection or on a hat. Let the boys and girls go fishing and let them collect flowers, insects and minerals, but no eggs and birds.

*No decent, thinking boy or man will shoot at a harmless bird, just to see how near he can come to hitting it.* How would the gun fool like to furnish target practice for some bigger fool who needs a still bigger target?

It often happens that crippled birds or young birds are found in a half-starved or helpless condition. All young birds may be fed mealworms; raw, fresh beef, unsalted and cut into small pieces; or hard boiled eggs and boiled potatoes chopped together. They must be fed at least every hour, until they have learned to eat alone. Old birds should be put in a large

## *Introduction.*

cage and in a quiet place. Those with a rather thin, long bill will eat the food given above; those with a rather stout, cone-shaped bill will eat bird seed and perhaps small grain. Provide all captured birds with clean water, *and let them go as soon as they are able to take care of themselves.*

Wrens and especially Bluebirds and Martins are often greatly in need of proper nesting places. Fasten a box of any shape to a smooth post. The wrens need a hole the size of a nickel, bluebirds one about twice as large. Martin boxes should have holes about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches square. Cut an x into a piece of tin, turn back the flaps, put the post through the hole, turn the tin down and nail it tight to the pole or post about five feet up. That will prevent cats, squirrels, mice and rats from robbing the nests. Turn the opening of the box toward the southeast. Place the box so that nothing can jump on it from above. See Lange, "Our Native Birds," for further information about attracting and protecting the birds. It also tells how to deal with the English Sparrow pest.

The present little book is especially adapted for Wisconsin, Minnesota and the two Da-  
over a much wider area. While its main object is to identify the birds, some hints about their interesting habits, song and usefulness are added.



## *Introduction.*

*Nature has bountifully endowed the Northwest with things beautiful as well as useful. Ourselves and our children should no longer remain blind to the beauties and the music of nature. Everybody is interested in birds. "What bird is that?" is often asked by young and old who see and hear birds during a few leisure hours and on holidays. For this large class of unprofessional bird lovers this little guide is intended, and to this class the writer should like to make many converts.*

The price of the book brings it within reach of everybody, and its size is such that it may conveniently be taken into the field or consulted at home.

The migration dates refer to the latitude of Central Wisconsin. In Southern Wisconsin birds arrive a little earlier in spring and remain a little later in fall. For Northern Wisconsin the conditions are reversed. The dates give the average arrival of birds in spring and in many cases also indicate the time during which the bird has been observed to remain in this latitude. For most of these records I am indebted to Mr. John W. Taylor of St. Paul, others are taken from my own notes.

Many of the birds described can be seen in the parks of Wisconsin towns. Mounted specimens of all can be found in the Public Museum of Milwaukee. I have consulted with much profit: *The Birds of Wisconsin*, by L. Kumlien and N. Hollister. Published by the Public Museum of Milwaukee.

*Explanations.* The length or size of birds is indicated in inches, thus: American Robin, L. 10. English Sparrow, L. 6¼. One is apt to underestimate the size of birds in the field. A bird that breeds in the Northwest and migrates south in fall is a Summer Resident (S. R.), one that stays with us always is a Permanent Resident (P. R.), and one that breeds farther north and only passes through our region in spring and fall is a Migrant (M.) One that only spends the winter with us and goes north to breed is a Winter Visitant (W. V.)

The scientific names and the check number of the American Ornithologist Union are added for ready reference to larger bird books.

*Abbreviations.*

L. Length.

M. Migrant.

P. R. Permanent Resident.

S. R. Summer Resident.

W. V. Winter Visitant.

As far as possible, the most common or conspicuous birds are placed first in each group. The scientific names of birds and the check numbers of the American Ornithologist's Union have been added for ready reference to larger bird books. This booklet describes 134 common birds, of which about 100 may be identified in almost any county of the Northwest.

# LAND BIRDS

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## 1. Woodpeckers and Other Birds that Climb on the Trunks and Branches of Trees.

This includes, besides Woodpeckers, Sapsuckers, Nuthatches, the Brown Creeper and the Black and White Warbler. The first nine described nest in hollows excavated in trees, stumps and poles. All of them are partly identified by their habits.

**Red-headed Woodpecker.** L. 9¾.

*Head, neck and breast of both sexes red, back and wings black with two large white spots, tail black, below, pure white. No bars or stripes.* One of the most conspicuous birds in North America, bearing the colors of the German flag. Young, grayish and dusky, no red nor pure white and black. Often catches insects on the wing and on the ground. Often sits quietly on the top of a pole or post. For nesting sites it prefers telegraph and telephone poles. S. R. only, May 10 to Sept. 4. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. 406.

**Northern Flicker.** Yellowhammer, Highhole, Golden-winged Woodpecker. L. 13.

Often feeds on the ground in company with robins, digs with its bill for small ants. *In*

## Land Birds.

*flight it shows a white rump and yellow under the wings and tail. General color, brownish, barred above and spotted below, a red band on the nape and a black crescent on the breast.*

Abundant S. R., March 28 to Oct. 13.

*Colaptes auratus luteus.* 412a.

### Northern Downy Woodpecker. L. 6.5.

A common permanent resident, looks very much like the Hairy Woodpecker, but is much smaller, only a little larger than the English Sparrow. A broad white stripe down the back; wings black, spotted with white; outer tail feathers white, but *barred with black*; a red band on the nape of the male; below, white. Notes, a sharp peek and a screaming rattle. This scream is our first sound of spring, it is uttered on mild mornings beginning with the middle of February. *Dryobates pubescens medianus.* 394c.

### Hairy Woodpecker. L. 9.

Has a broad white stripe down its black back, very distinct white spots and bars on the black wings; male with a red band on the nape; outer tail feathers white, but not barred; below, white. Notes, a sharp, loud "pleek" and a loud rattling scream. Looks much like the smaller Downy Woodpecker, is much larger, but not as common. P. R. *Dryobates villosus.* 393.

## *Birds that Climb.*

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. L. 8½.**

This is the bird that makes the rings of round holes in apple trees, basswoods and other trees. *Crown and throat of male, red, lower parts distinctly yellowish*; upper parts black, abundantly barred and spotted with white. Female, similar, but white on the throat. S. R. *Sphyrapicus varius.* 402.

### **Pileated Woodpecker. Logcock. L. 17.**

*Our largest woodpecker, all black. Male with scarlet crest and cheek-patch*, whitish stripe on head and neck. No red on female. In the northern woods. A grand bird.

*Ceophlaeus pileatus.* 405.

### **Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. L. 9½.**

*Back shining black, no white on back.* Below white. *Crown of male yellow*, no yellow on female. Common P. R. in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. *Picoides arcticus.* 400. April 10.

### **White-breasted Nuthatch. L. 6.**

A permanent resident, more easily observed in winter than in summer. *A small bird of a general ashy-blue color*, always minutely exploring trunks and limbs with *a jerky motion*, *does not brace on its tail like woodpeckers.* Cap and neck almost black; below, whitish. Note, a rather loud, nasal "yank, yank, yank." They are generally seen in pairs, and can easily be tamed by placing bits of suet or cracked

## Land Birds.

nuts in the bark of a tree. *Sitta carolinensis*. 727.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch.** L. 4½.

Very similar in shape and habits to the former, but has black and white stripes on the head, *is brownish below* and smaller. Migrant from the north, most common in autumn. *Sitta canadensis*. 728.

**Black and White Warbler.** Black and White Creeper. L. 5¼.

A little bird most properly named. Upper parts distinctly streaked with black and white, *no brownish*, white below. An active climber, often seen on lower side of branches. Song, a thin "see-see-see-see-see-see." Nest on the ground. Common S. R. *Mniotilta varia*. 636.

**Brown Creeper.** L. 5½.

The most patient little climber and searcher of trees and boughs. Generally climbs around a tree in a spiral. Dull brownish and streaked, tail-feathers pointed and stiffened, used as braces; long bill slightly curved. S. R. in northern, P. R. in southern part of state. Nest behind loosened bark of trees. *Certhia familiaris americana*. 726.

## 2. Birds Marked with Red, other than Woodpeckers.

This group includes the Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-winged Black-

## *Birds Marked With Red.*

bird, Purple Finch, Red-poll, Pine Grosbeak, American Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill. Only the males show red, the females do not.

### **Red-winged Blackbird.** L. 9½.

One of our most common birds of sloughs, lakes and marshes. *Adult male, black with red patch on shoulders.* Female, brownish black above, whitish and streaked with black below. Young without red. Often seen on fields and on trees. Nest in rushes or low bushes. S. R., but comes early and stays late. Assembles in large flocks in autumn. March 31 to Nov. 4. *Agelaius phoeniceus.* 498.

### **Scarlet Tanager.** L. 7½.

In woodlands. *General color of male, scarlet, wings and tail black; female, olive-green, yellowish below.* Song similar to that of a robin. Nest on horizontal limb, ten to twenty feet up. Fairly common S. R., May 12 to Aug. 17. *Piranga erythromelas.* 608.

### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak.** L. 8.

In the woods. *Perhaps our finest singer.* Bill cone-shaped, *very stout.* Head, black, a *bright rose-red blotch on breast,* black and white above. Female, brownish and mottled. Nest on bushes and trees, five to twenty feet up. Common S. R., May 7 to Sept. 12. *Zamelodia ludoviceana.* 595.

## Land Birds.

### Purple Finch. L. 6¼.

Not purple at all, but *dull rose-red, quite bright on head and rump*; back, brownish; belly, whitish; females, grayish brown. Bill stout and cone-shaped. Often seen in considerable flocks during the spring and fall migration along edges of woods. S. R., in northern part, March 22. *Carpodacus purpureus*. 517.

### Redpoll. L. 5¼.

*Crown, red*; general color, brownish; male washed with rose on breast and rump; no rose on female. Common winter visitant, seen along edges of woods and on weeds. Breeds north of the United States. Call notes, "cheet," similar to those of the Gold finch. *Acanthis linaria*. 528.

### Pine Grosbeak. L. 8½.

General color of male rose red, wings and tail dusky, two white bars on wing. Bill very stout. Female gray and greenish. W. V., especially in the northern woods of Wisconsin and probably of Minnesota. *Pinicola enucleator leucura*. 515.

### American Crossbill. L. 6.

*Mandibles crossed*. Male greenish or yellowish red. Wings and tail dusky, no white bars. Female dull greenish above, yellowish below. Common W. V. in Wisconsin, and possibly in wooded parts of Minnesota. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. 521.



## *Birds Marked with Blue.*

### **White-winged Crossbill. L. 6.**

*General color, red; wings black and white; mandibles crossed.* Female, dusky green above, and yellowish below; young like female. Breeds in the northern pine regions and in Canada; migrates southward in winter. *Loxia leucoptera.* 522.

### **3. Birds Marked with Blue.**

Blue Jay, Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Kingfisher.

#### **Blue Jay. L. 11¾.**

Our only common permanent resident in this group. *Head with a conspicuous crest, black collar on the breast, wings and tail blue with bars and spots of white and black.* Call, a loud screaming "jay jay jay." Has several notes and imitates calls of other birds. Its presence in midwinter, its crest and large size, distinguish it easily from the Bluebird. Especially common in oak woods. A beautiful rogue. Nest on trees, twelve to twenty feet up. *Cyanocitta cristata.* 477.

#### **Bluebird. L. 7.**

*Much smaller than the preceding species, no crest. Only a little larger than the English Sparrow.* Male, bright blue above, throat and breast rich brown. Female, dull blue above, paler below. Nest in stumps, posts or boxes. Fairly common S. R. Small flocks may be

## Land Birds.

seen in autumn. Call, *turwee, turwee*; song, a short, sweet warble. March 11 to Oct. 15. *Sialia sialis*. 766.

### Belted Kingfisher. L. 13.

To the novice resembling the Blue Jay, but larger, with a more ruffled crest, a much longer bill and a shorter tail. Always perches near water, *into which it plunges for small fish*, which the Blue Jay never does. *Bluish gray above, a bluish band on the white breast*. Notes, a loud, sharp rattle. Nest in a hole in a bank five to six feet from the entrance. Common S. R., April 14 to Sept. 16. *Ceryle alcyon*. 390.

### Indigo Bunting. L. 5½.

*Smaller than a Bluebird. Male, a beautiful deep greenish blue, not sky-blue like the Bluebird. Bill short and stout. Female, dull brownish. A bird of brush and wood lands. Nest in brush near the ground. Song, a rapid, irregular warble. Fairly common S. R., quite common in favorite places. Cyanospiza cyanea*. 598.

## 4. Birds Marked with Yellow or Orange.

### 1. Birds larger than an English Sparrow.

Meadow Lark, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Arkansas Kingbird.

*Birds Marked Yellow or Orange.*

**Meadowlark.** L.  $10\frac{3}{4}$ .

The songbird of open fields, pastures and prairies. *A conspicuous black crescent on a yellow breast, displaying outer white tail-feather in flight.* Flies straight like a quail, hovers before it sits down. Song, a clear, metallic whistle, sounds like *Spring of the year*. Often sings from a post, stone or knoll. Nest on the ground. Abundant S. R., March 24 to Oct. 2. *Sturnella magna*. 501.

**Baltimore Oriole.** Hangnest, Firebird, Golden Robin. L.  $7\frac{1}{2}$ .

General color of male, *bright orange*; head wings and part of tail black, some white on wings. Female olive-brown above, yellowish below. *Nest, a hanging, neatly woven basket,* near outer end of a limb, twenty to forty feet up inaccessible to bad boys and cats. It takes wings to reach it. Song a short musical whistle. May 12. *Icterus galbula*. 507.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird.** L. 10.

Male, *unmistakably identified by its deep yellow head and breast,* general color, black, white spot on the wings. At home in rushes and reeds of sloughs and lakes, increases in numbers westward; more common in the Dakotas than in Minnesota. Female brownish. Nest in marshes, fixed to reeds, two to three feet above water. They feed mostly on dry land. Song, harsh, suggesting the crowing of a

## Land Birds.

young rooster. Common S. R., April 2. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. 497.

### **Cedar Waxwing. L. 7.**

General color of both sexes a soft brown, *distinctly crested, yellowish below, a yellow band at end of tail*. A rather elusive species, generally flying high near the tree tops. Nest in trees five to twenty feet up, built late in summer, generally in July. Fairly common P. R., more common in summer. *Ampelis cedrorum*. 619.

### **Arkansas Kingbird. L. 9.**

*In southwestern Minnesota and the Dakotas.* Has the habits of the common Kingbird, still more noisy, but its voice more pleasant. Breast and upper parts light gray, *lemon yellow below, tail black, white edge on outer tail-feathers*. Concealed red patch on crown. Common S. R. in its range. Nest on bushes or trees, five to ten feet up. *Tyrannus verticalis*. 447.

### **Evening Grosbeak. L. 8.**

*Seen only in winter*, generally in small flocks. Feeds principally on seeds of box-elder. General color of adult male, *dull yellow*, crown and tail black, wings black, with large white patch. *The only winter bird showing this conspicuous combination of black, white and yellow*. Bill very stout. Females and young without clear yellow, rather brownish. Breeds in

*Birds Marked Yellow or Orange.*

the British Northwest. *Hasperiphona vespertina*. 514.

11. Birds Smaller than an English Sparrow or about the same size.

**Dickcissel.** L. 6¼.

Sparrow size. *Conspicuous black mark on throat.* Two yellow stripes on head, breast yellow, shoulders brown. A bird of fields and roadsides. Song, *dick dick, cis-cis-cis-cissle*, uttered from a perch. Female dull, no black mark. Common S. R. in Wisconsin, more rare westward. *Spiza americana*. 604.

**Yellow Warbler.** Wild Canary. L. 5.

Male, *bright yellow all over*, darker above, below streaked with reddish brown. Female more dull above and paler below. Nest, neatly woven in forks of shrubs. Flits and feeds in low bushes. Abundant S. R., May 12. *Dendroica aestiva*. 652.

**American Goldfinch.** L. 5.

*General color of male, bright yellow; cap black; wings and tail, black, with white marks.* Female olive brown, without pure yellow and white. Males in winter without yellow, like female, with buff bars on wings. Males often seen in small flocks in early summer. Nests built in August in crotches of bushes and small trees. *Flight, wavy; call on wing, ker-chee-chee-chee; ker-chee-chee-chee;* when

## Land Birds.

perching, *sweet, sweet*. Common P. R. *As-tragalinus tristis*. 529.

### Northern Yellowthroat. L. 5¼.

The northwestern variety of the Maryland Yellowthroat. Male with a *distinct black band over forehead and cheeks, throat and breast yellow*, back olive-green. Female dull above, yellowish below, without black band on head. You will most likely hear the Yellowthroat before you see him. Song, *witchity, witchity, witchity*, with increasing accent. Common S. R., around copses and thickets, May 8. *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*. 681d.

### Redstart. L. 5¼.

A small active bird, one of the warblers, a little smaller than an English sparrow, of more slender build. *Two patches on tail and band on wings of male, bright orange red, rest of upper parts black, black band at end of tail*. Female, yellowish where the male is orange, back brownish-olive. Apt to be most numerous during spring migration. M. and S. R., May 18. *Setophaga ruticilla*. 687.

## 5. Birds Marked with Reddish Brown.

American Robin, Orchard Oriole, Towhee.

### American Robin. L. 10.

Almost too well known to need description. Slaty brown above, breast and belly

## *Birds Marked with Reddish Brown.*

rich rust-red, female paler. The variety in the western part of the Dakotas is the Western Robin. Nest in trees, plastered with mud; on the prairies, placed on the ground. Very abundant S. R. A few sometimes winter in southern Wisconsin and Minnesota. March 11 to Oct. 15. *Merula migratoria*. 761.

### **Orchard Oriole.** L. 7¼.

Head, throat and upper part of adult male, black; *lower parts rump and part of wings, rich chestnut red*. Female, dusky green above, greenish yellow below. Second year male like female, but with black head. Nest, a neat basket, not always hanging. A finer singer than the Baltimore Oriole, but much rarer in the Northwest. S. R. May 20. *Icterus spurius*. 506.

### **Towhee.** Chewink, Joree. L. 8.

Adult male, *black, except for chestnut red sides and white belly*, outer tail feathers marked with white. Female, brown. Call, *towhee*, or *chewink*. Song *sweet deet towhee*. A fairly common S. R. in thickets and woods, where it scratches amongst the leaves. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. 587.

## **6. Birds of the Air.**

This includes the Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, the Swallows, Purple Martin, Night-hawk and Whippoorwill. All of them spend much time on the wing hunting for insects over

## Land Birds.

lakes, streams and fields, or high in the air. The Chimney Swift never perches, but Hummingbirds and Swallows, although generally seen on the wing, can use their feet for perching. All are very useful birds.

### **Chimney Swift.** 5½.

*Always on the wing, cannot perch. Looks like a bow and arrow, short spines protrude from tail. Nests in chimneys, rests by slinging head up to wall of chimney. Late in summer hundreds or even thousands roost in school-house or court-house chimneys. Dusky black above, paler below, but looks black against the sky. Used to nest and roost in hollow trees. Can you tell why? Call, a nervous, chattering twitter. Very abundant S. R., May 10 to Sept. 10. Chaetura pelagica. 423.*

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird.** L. 3½.

Our well known hummer that searches flowers for honey and small insects. Adult males only with ruby throat. The only hummingbird found from the Dakotas eastward. A large sphinx moth is sometimes mistaken for a white hummingbird. Our smallest bird. Common S. R., May 15 to October. *Trochilus colubris.* 428.

### **Barn Swallow.** L. 7½.

Known to every country boy by the nest placed under beams in barns and other buildings. Nest resembling ¼ of a hollow sphere.



*Birds of the Air.*

Tail, deeply forked. Male, steel blue above, forehead and throat, rich brown. Female, smaller, tail less deeply forked. Abundant S. R. May 1. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. 613.

**Bank Swallow.** L.  $5\frac{1}{4}$ .

Easily identified by nest, which is always *in a hole in a bank, generally in colomes and near water*. Brownish gray above, white below, dark band across the white breast. Our smallest swallow. Abundant S. R., where it finds suitable nesting places. April 18. *Riparia riparia*. 616.

**Cliff Swallow.** L.  $5\frac{1}{2}$ .

Absolutely identified by the *gourd-shaped nests of muds placed in rows under the eaves of buildings, never inside*. Used to nest under cliffs. Returns to the same building for years. *Tail, brownish above, not forked*. Local S. R. May 18. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. 612.

**Tree Swallow.** **White Bellied Swallow.** L. 6.

*Adults, greenish blue above, shining white below*. Often nests in boxes and other places frequented by the Martins and is sometimes mistaken for it. Tail not deeply forked. Nest in hollow trees or boxes. Common S. R. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. 614.

**Purple Martin.** L.  $7\frac{3}{4}$ .

Larger than any of the preceding. *Adult male, shining bluish black all over*. Female,

## Land Birds.

*both deeply forked.* Nest in boxes or houses. Fairly common S. R. where nesting boxes are provided. April 1. *Progne subis.* 611.

**Nighthawk. Bull-bat. L. 10.**

No hawk at all, but resembles a hawk in coloring. Flies about after insects evenings and mornings, but I have seen them also on moonlight nights. *Shows a white patch under the wing.* Call, a sharp nasal *paint.* Often makes a whirring or booming sound with its wings. Nest on the ground or roofs of large city buildings. Above black, mottled and marked with whitish and brownish, not easily seen on the ground. Very common S. R., May 12 to Sept. 18. *Chordeiles virginianus.* 420.

**Whippoorwill. L.  $9\frac{3}{4}$ .**

*Much more frequently heard than seen. Calls its name, whip-poor-will, repeated many times,* Once I heard it 162 times in succession with but very short pauses. Feeds and calls only between sunset and sunrise. Feeds on low-flying insects, lives in bushy fields and thickets, generally near water. Nest on the ground. Upper parts streaked and mottled with black, whitish and brown, difficult to see on the more dull with some whitish below. *Tail of ground. Whippoorwill and Nighthawk are different birds.* S. R., May 3. *Antrostomus vociferus.* 417.

*Colored Black or Black and White.*

## **7. Birds Chiefly Colored Black or Black and White.**

All larger, some very much larger than an English Sparrow, American Crow, Bronzed Grackle, Brewer Blackbird, Cowbird, Bobolink, Lark Bunting.

### **American Crow. L. 19.**

Known by its large size and loud *caw, caw*. All black. Often gathers in flocks in fall. Nest bulky, in trees. March to November. *Corvus americanus*. 488.

### **Bronzed Grackle. Crow Blackbird. L. 12-13½.**

*All black, head and neck shining with purple, bluish, or greenish. Larger than other Blackbirds, but smaller than a Crow. Female more dull than male. Often comes into towns and feeds a good deal on the ground. Nest of mud, preferably on evergreens. Common S. R., April to October. Quiscalus quiscula aeneus.* 511b.

### **Brewer Blackbird. L. 10.**

A common dooryard Blackbird of the West, from Western Minnesota westward. I found it very numerous in the Bad Lands on the Little Missouri. Smaller than the Purple Grackle. *All black. Back glossy, greenish or bluish; head and neck purplish.* Head and

## Land Birds.

neck of female brownish gray. Nest in low trees or bushes. Common S. R. *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*. 510.

### Cowbird. L. 8.

*Commonly seen in pastures near cattle, but also in woods. Male, black, with glossy coffee brown head and neck. Female, brownish.* Builds no nest, but lays its eggs into nests of other birds, often into those of smaller birds as the warblers and native sparrows, which generally hatch and feed the young cowbirds. Common S. R., April 20. *Molothrus ater*. 495.

### Bobolink. Reedbird, Ricebird. L. 7¼.

*A bird of damp meadows. Utters a bubbling, frolicsome song on the wing, or from a weed or low bush. Male black, nape pale brown; part of wings and lower back, pure white. Female, brownish and streaked.* In autumn all bobolinks become brownish and streaked. Abundant S. R., May 17 to Sept. 3. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. 494.

### Lark Bunting. White-winged Blackbird. L. 7¼.

*A western bird. Common S. R., from southwestern Minnesota westward. Male, all black, except pure white patch on the wings. Female grayish brown and streaked. Often sings on the wing like the Bobolink. I found them common at Pipestone, Minn. Calamospiza melanocorys.* 605.

*Birds Chiefly Dull Colored.*

**8. Birds Chiefly Dull Colored.**

Not distinctly black, but some almost so.

**Kingbird.** L.  $8\frac{1}{2}$ .

Perches on wires, posts and bushes, and *darts at flying insects. Fights all other birds coming near him, especially hawks and crows.* Dusky black above, whitish below, *broad band of whitish at tip of tail.* Spreads its tail like a fan when it alights. Nest on bushes and low trees. Abundant S. R. through the whole northwest. Appears wherever trees grow or are planted in the Dakotas. May 17 to Sept. 5. *Tyrannus tyrannus.* 444.

**Phoebe.** L. 7.

Best identified by its nest, *which is made of moss and mud and lined with grass and hairs, and placed on a beam or projection, under a bridge or cliff.* Eggs generally white. Adults, dusky olive above, darkest on head and tail, whitish below, bill and feet black; quite tame. Droops and jerks its tail, flies at passing insects from a perch. Call *Phoebe*. Very common S. R. about buildings, bridges and cliffs, often near water, returning for years to the same nesting place. March 3 to Oct. 4. *Syornis phoebe.* 456.

*Birds Chiefly Dull Colored.*

**Wood Pewee.** L.  $6\frac{1}{2}$ .

*In woodlands. Generally heard before it is seen. Call, a plaintive, slowly repeated pee-o-wee. Dark olive brown above, darkest on head, tail and wings; two dull white wing bars; lower parts whitish. Nest saddled on a limb, twenty to forty feet up. Very common S. R. May 16. Contopus virens. 461.*

**Warbling Vireo.** L.  $5\frac{1}{4}$ .

*In trees of streets, parks and woods, generally feeding and singing in upper branches. Heard from early summer until August, but difficult to see. Song, a continuous sweet warble, rather low in pitch. Mouse-gray above; white below, tinged with yellowish. Nest well woven, hanging from a forked branch ten to forty feet up. Very common S. R., May 16 to Aug. 9. Vireo gilvus. 627.*

**Red-eyed Vireo.** L.  $6\frac{1}{4}$ .

*Glides about in woods, sings as it feeds in the foliage overhead, more easily heard than seen. Song, loud and broken: You see it—you know it—do you hear me?—do you believe it? Olive-green above, whitish below; crown, slaty; a white line over the eye, and a dark line above the white line. Nest well woven, hanging from forked branch, five to forty feet up. Very abundant S. R. Vireo olivaceus. 624.*

### *Chiefly Colored Slate or Gray.*

NOTE: The Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Phoebe, and Wood Pewee are Flycatchers that watch from a perch for passing insects. They can raise their crown feathers, which makes them look rather big-headed. The Vireos search for insects in the foliage and branches of trees. Several other Flycatchers and Vireos are found in this region, but their identification is rather difficult for beginners.

## **9. Birds Chiefly Colored Slate or Gray, with some White or Black.**

1. Much larger than an English Sparrow, Catbird, Canada Jay, Northern Shrike, Loggerhead Shrike.

### **Catbird. L. 9.**

*General color, a slate gray, bill, cap and tail black, a rust-brown spot below the root of the tail. A rather slim bird, lives in bushes and shrubbery. Often mews like a cat, but also a fine singer. Sometimes sings at night. Nest in thick bushes or tangle of vines, eggs greenish blue. Galeoscoptes carolinensis. 704.*

### **Canada Jay. L. 11½.**

General color, gray, throat and forehead, whitish, *forehead lightest and quite conspicuous.* Found only in the northern pine forests from Nova Scotia to northern Minnesota. The



## Land Birds.

most common bird about camps of hunters and lumbermen in northern woods. Known as Whiskey Jack, Whiskey John, Camp Robber, Moosebird, Meatbird. Very bold and thievish. Nest in trees, built very early before the snow is gone. Permanent resident. *Perisoreus canadensis*. 484.

**Northern Shrike.** L. 10¼.

*Bluish gray above, tail and wings black, with some white, black mark behind the eye, white below with wavy dark bars. Bill large and hooked. Whole plumage a conspicuous combination of gray, black and white..* Winter visitant, sometimes feeds on English Sparrows. All Shrikes have the habit of fastening insects, mice and small birds on thorns and barbs. Breeds north of the United States. *Lanius borealis*. 621.

**Loggerhead Shrike.** Butcherbird. L. 9.

*General colors like its northern relative, no bars below, a little smaller. Habits of the Northern Shrike. Rather rare S. R. April 11.* *Lanius ludovicianus*. 622.

11. Birds smaller than an English Sparrow or about the same size.

**Black-capped Chickadee.** L. 5¼.

A little, grayish bird, *with black cap and throat, and whitish cheeks.* Always busy, searching for food on trees and bushes. *Calls*



*Chiefly Colored Brown or Streaked.*

*its name: Chickadee-dee.* Common S. R., but more frequently seen in winter than in summer. *Parus atricapillus.* 735.

**Slate-colored Junco.** L. 6¼.

A very abundant winter visitant, in fields, woods and towns. *Upper parts dark slate, head and throat almost black, belly white. Outer tail-feathers white, showing well in flight, bill whitish.* October to April. *Junco hyemalis.* 567.

**10. Birds Chiefly Colored Brown or Streaked.**

1. Birds larger than an English Sparrow, some as large as a Robin or larger. Including here: The Mourning Dove, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Fox Sparrow, Prairie Horned Lark, Snow Flake.

**Mourning Dove.** L. 11½.

*Soft brown above, paler below. A black spot on the sides of the head and a few black spots on back and wings. Female paler. Often feeds along roadside, takes flight with rapid, strong wing beats like a pigeon, walks like a pigeon, and its general shape is that of a dwarf pigeon. Call, a soft coo-coo, coo-coo, uttered slowly, often heard in early summer. Nest very flimsy, only a few sticks, generally*

## Land Birds.

on horizontal branch ten to twenty feet up.  
Common S. R. *Zenaidura macroura*. 316.

**Brown Thrasher.** L. 11½.

*Known by its distinct brown above, very long tail, large size, and long bill. Below white, heavily streaked with blackish. Wags or thrashes its tail. Song, musical and spirited, generally uttered from a high perch. Nest, bulky, in bushes on or near the ground. Frequent groves, parks and woodlots. Common S. R. Toxostoma rufum. 705.*

**Wood Thrush.** L. 8.

*In woods. Upper part rich rusty brown, brightest on the head. Lower parts white. Marked with wedge-shaped black spots. A fine singer. Nest partly of mud, well built on limb or in crotch, six to fifteen feet high. Common S. R., May 4 to Sept. 13. Hylocichla mustelina. 755.*

**Black-billed Cuckoo.** Rain Crow. L. 11¾.

*Its call, a soft cow-cow-cow-cow, uttered and repeated quite rapidly, is more often heard than the bird is seen. A long-tailed bird, glides rather low and stealthily through bushes and thickets. Grayish brown above with a greenish tint. White below, very little white on tail, bill entirely black. S. R., May 15 to Sept. 7. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. 388.*

*Chiefly Colored Brown or Streaked.*

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo.** Rain Crow. L. 12¼.

Like the preceding, *but outer tail-feathers broadly tipped with white, lower mandible yellow*, wings show more brown in flight. Call similar to preceding, but more harsh and broken. Habits and habitat the same. Nest of both species built of sticks, on low trees on in thick bushes. S. R. *Coccyzus americanus*. 387.

**Fox Sparrow.** L. 7¼.

Our largest and most conspicuous sparrow, seen only as migrant here, especially in spring when it scratches like a hen amongst the leaves in low, damp thickets. *Fox-red above, tail brightest*; lower parts whitish, heavily streaked with brown and blackish. Breeds north of the United States. *Passerella iliaca*. 585.

**Prairie Horned Lark.** L. 7½.

*Always found in open fields.* Only a little larger than an English Sparrow. *Black patch on cheek, black crescent on breast*, back brownish. Two thin tufts on head, not always distinctly seen. *Utters the first bird song of the season* from knolls and stones in February, when snow still covers the ground. Sometimes sings in the air like the European Skylark. Abundant S. R., sometimes P. R., always returns very early. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. 474b.

## Land Birds.

### **Snowflake. Snowbird. L. 7.**

*Upper parts brown*, very distinctly so on the crown, back streaked with black. Tail white on the sides, black in the middle. Wings mostly white. *Lower side of body and wings white, showing conspicuously in flight.* Very common winter visitant, seen in flocks in open fields, feeding on small seeds, often comes to barnyards, when the fields are entirely covered with snow. Breeds north of the United States. Oct. 20 to March. *Passerina nivalis.* 534.

## II. Birds About the Size of an English Sparrow or Smaller.

### **House Wren. L. $4\frac{3}{4}$ .**

Brown above, finely barred with dusky, bill rather long, awl-shaped. *Nests in holes, boxes and crevices. Sings with great energy*, its head raised, tail drooped and whole little body trembling. A very common S. R. about farm yards, frequently enters barns and sheds. Will nest in an old boot, a jug or a gourd, if put upon a pole. A hole the size of a nickel is just right for it. May 2 to Sept. 18. *Troglodytes aedon.* 721.

### **Short-billed Marsh Wren. L. 4.**

A little mouse-like bird in movements and habits. Hides in the long grass and reeds of swamps and marshes, is much more often heard than seen. Difficult to flush. Its song

*Chiefly Colored Brown or Streaked.*

sounds as if the singer had its bill filled with fine pebbles and water, and the pebbles were vigorously rubbed together, *often sings at night*. Brownish above, streaked with whitish, black and buff, tail and wings barred, below white. Nest globular, roofed, entrance on one side, made of grasses, on or near ground. Abundant S. R. in northwestern sloughs and marshes. *Cistothorus stellaris* 724.

**Long-billed Marsh Wren.** L. 5¼.

*Larger than preceding species, bill longer and awl-shaped, brown, very dark on head and tail, white line over the eye.* Inhabits rushes and cat-tails of lakes, sometimes inspects boats of duck hunters. Have seen one take a sun bath on my boat and another perched on my gun and peeped inquisitively into the muzzle. Nest similar to preceding, of coarse grass, fixed to reeds. Common R. S. *Telmatodytes palustris.* 725.

**SPARROWS OR SPARROW-LIKE BIRDS.** All are small and inconspicuous, mostly living in fields and bushes. Bill rather stout and cone-shaped, feed principally on seeds. All except the English Sparrow are natives to this country and very useful birds.

**English Sparrow.** L. 6¼.

*Our most common bird, seen winter and summer on city streets and farms.. Brownish*

## Land Birds.

above, streaked, male with conspicuous black mark on throat and breast. Often picks grain from horse droppings, feed with chickens, eats kitchen scraps and anything eatable. Often enters large barns. Very noisy and pugilistic. Notes, harsh and discordant chirps. Nest in any convenient place about buildings, also on trees; bulky, of all kinds of material. P. R. Introduced from Europe. Often annoys our native birds. *Passer domesticus*.

### Chipping Sparrow. L. 5¼.

Common in woods and about dooryards where it finds bushes and vines. Nest a thin, neat basket of fine grass, nearly always lined with horse hair, on trees, bushes or vines. Quite tame and confiding. Chestnut brown cap, whitish line over eye, breast plain ashy, bill black. Call, chip, sings a clear, unmusical trill, chippy, chippy, chippy, rapidly repeated. Abundant S. R. *Spizella socialis*. 560.

### Vesper Sparrow. L. 6.

A very common bird of roadsides and open fields. Has the habit of running along the road before teams and pedestrians and flying a short distance ahead, shows two white tail-feathers in flight. Brownish and streaked above, whitish below, sides streaked. Song, loud and clear, generally from a high perch. Nest on the ground. April 12 to Nov. 1. *Pooecetes gramineus*. 540.

*Chiefly Colored Brown or Streaked.*

**Song Sparrow.** L. 6.

At home near bushes and copses. Above reddish brown with dark streaks. Below, whitish with black streaks, *which form a dark spot in the middle of the breast.* Song, plain but sweet and musical, beginning with, *oleet, oleet, oleet.* Nest on the ground or in bushes. Common S. R. *Melospiza cinerea melodia.* 581.

**Grasshopper Sparrow.** L. 5¼.

*Best identified by its song, which is only a feeble insect-like chirp, chip-up zee-e-e-e-e-e, uttered while the plain, grayish brown bird points its bill upward.* Crown nearly black with a buff central stripe. Common S. R., May 6. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus.* 546.

**Tree Sparrow.** L. 6¼.

A common winter, visitant from late autumn to March 20, breeds north of the United States. *Often flocks with the Juncoes, a black spot in the center of ashy breast. Cap reddish brown, two whittish wing bars, back streaked.* *Spizella monticola.* 559.

There are many other Sparrows found in the Northwest, but they are difficult for beginners and too numerous for this booklet.



## II. Quail, Prairie Chickens and Grouse.

The color of all these birds blends so well with their surroundings that they are seldom seen before they fly. All nest on the ground.

### Bob-white. Quail. L. 10.

Male calls it name: Bob-White. Line over eye and throat white, black crescent on breast. Female more dull. These confiding little chicks of woodlots and fields ought not to be hunted at all. If fed during severe winter weather they will become very tame and return to the farmyard after the breeding season. Common P. R., wherever there is some scattered timber. Not on the open plains nor in pine forests. *Colinus virginianus*. 289.

### Prairie Hen. Prairie Chicken. L. 18.

Almost too well known to need description. General color brownish, much barred; below whitish and barred. Male with prominent neck tufts. Males make a loud booming sound in spring. P. R. in the prairie section of Minnesota and eastern Dakotas. *Tympanuchus americanus*. 305.

### Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse. L. 15-18.

A more western species. Paler than the preceding and without neck tufts. Frequently



*Quail, Prairie Chickens and Grouse.*

uttering a loud cack-cack-cack, when flushed. P. R., generally flushed near some bushes. *Pedioceles phasianellus campestris*. 308b.

**Sage Grouse.** L. male 26-30. Female 21-23.

The largest of our grouse, *only found in the dry sage brush country of the west*. Occurs in western North and South Dakota. Upper parts gray or buff, much spotted and variegated. *Centrocercus urophasianus*. 309.

**Ruffed Grouse.** Partridge, Pheasant. L. 17.

*The wild chicken of our woods*. Male with large, black neck tufts, a small crest on the head, *tail with a broad, dark band near the end*. General color brownish, but much variegated and blending with dead leaves. Neck tufts of female very small. In spring the males make a loud drumming noise with their wings. A common P. R. in woodlands of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ontario. *Bonasa umbellus*. 300.

**Canada Grouse.** Spruce Hen, Fool Hen. L. 15.

Inhabits our northern coniferous forests and feeds largely on the leaves and buds of spruce and tamarack. Generally very tame. Quite dark above, barred with black and grayish, *tail black, with broad brown band near end*. Black on throat and breast. *Canachites canadensis canadensis*. 298c.

## 12. Eagles, Hawks and Owls.

Known by their strong hooked bill and curved talons. Most of the hawks and owls are very useful, feeding principally on insects, mice, gophers and rabbits. None should be killed unless actually seen to do harm.

**Sparrow Hawk.** L. 10.

Our smallest and most common hawk, generally flies swift and low. *Back brown with dark bars, crown, bluish slate, two conspicuous dark marks on cheek.* Call, a sharp *killy, killy, killy*, uttered rapidly. S. R., March 26 to Sept. 27. *Palco sparverius.* 360.

**Marsh Hawk.** Harrier. L. male 19; female, 22.

A medium-sized hawk, *flying low over marshes and fields. Not seen in woods. Best identified by its conspicuous white rump.* General color from grayish to brown, much barred and streaked. Feeds principally on insects, mice and gophers. Nest on ground in or near marshes. S. R., March 23 to Nov. 10. *Circus hudsonius.* 331.

**Red-tailed Hawk.** L. male, 20; female, 23.

*Tail, rusty brown with black band near the end and a white tip.* Upper parts brown, lower parts whitish, streaked with brown. Often

## *Eagles, Hawks and Owls.*

soars in mid-air, especially in early spring, when they migrate northward. Feeds principally on mice and other small mammals. Call, a drawn-out scream. Nest on trees, thirty to seventy feet up. S. R. *Buteo borealis*. 337.

**Swainson Hawk.** L. male, 20; female, 22.

*The most common hawk on the prairies of the Dakotas, but also found eastward. Throat and belly white, broad brown band across the breast. Feeds almost exclusively on gophers and mice. Nest on trees or on the ground. Common S. R. Buteo swainsoni.* 342.

**Bald Eagle.** L. male, 33; female, 35.

A rather rare resident and occasional visitor and straggler. Saw one near Jamestown, N. D., where gophers were abundant. The bird of our country. Often seen in menageries and parks. *Easily known by its large size, white head and neck, and yellow beak. Lower part of legs not feathered.* The young look much like Golden Eagles. Both the Bald and the Golden Eagle have an expanse of wing from seven to eight feet. Nest on trees or cliffs. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus.* 352.

**Golden Eagle.** L. male, 30-35; female, 35-40.

An occasional visitor and straggler, sometimes seen captive in parks and menageries.

## Land Birds.

*Legs entirely feathered.. Dark brown all over, darkest on wings and tail, young with some white. Nest on trees or cliffs. Aquila chrysaetos. 349.*

### **American Osprey. Fish Hawk. L. 23.**

*Almost black above, white below, female spotted and streaked below. Plunges into water for fish, which are its exclusive diet. Call, a high whistle. Nest on trees. S. R., near favorite lakes. Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. 364.*

### **Great Horned Owl. L. 22.**

*The giant amongst our resident owls, ear tufts large. Upper part mottled with dusky and brown, a white patch on the throat, legs and feet heavily feathered. Very seldom seen in the daytime. Call, a loud hoot, whoo, whoo, whoo. Nest in trees. Often on old nest of other large birds. P. R. Bubo virginianus. 375.*

### **Screech Owl. L. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ .**

*Our most common small owl, eyes yellow, ear tufts distinct. Some are gray above and others rusty brown, all are variously marked and streaked. Nest in hollow trees; call, a tremulous whistle. Feeds on mice and insects and is a most useful bird. Megascops asio. 373.*

*Eagles, Hawks and Owls.*

**Short-eared Owl.** L. 15½.

One of the most common owls on the northwestern prairies; *flies low over the ground looking for gophers and mice, often hunts on cloudy days, hides in the grass when not hunting. Never lives in the woods, but always in the open*, especially in and near marshes. Ear-tufts very small, hardly noticeable, *wings very long, making the bird look very large in flight.* General color, yellowish brown, barred and streaked. Eyes yellow, with black ring and white eye-brows. *Rather tame.* Nest on ground. S. R. *Asio accipitrinus.* 367.

**Burrowing Owl.** L. 9-11.

*A western bird, from western Minnesota westward. Nests and lives in holes of badgers and prairie dogs. Looks but little like an owl and is often seen in daytime. Upper parts earth colored with whitish bars and spots, lower parts whitish, barred with brown. Legs rather long, feet bare. Speotyto cunicularia hypogala.* 378.

**Snowy Owl.** L. 25.

*A conspicuous winter visitant, more or less common in cold winters. General color white, more or less barred with dusky, no ear-tufts. Females with more black than males. Breeds north of the United States. Nyctea nyctea.* 376.

## SECTION II.

# WATER BIRDS AND SHORE BIRDS.

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### A. WADERS AND SHORE BIRDS.

Some of these like the American Bittern, the Black-crowned Night Heron and the Great Blue Heron are large birds, others, as the Killdeer and the Sandpipers, are small, but all have comparatively long legs. Their feet are not webbed and those described here do not swim.

#### 1. Large Waders.

Great Blue Heron. L. 42-50.

*Our largest common wader, locally called Blue Crane. Bluish gray above, head white, with black stripes and crest. Legs dusky, bill yellowish. Often seen standing still and waiting for fish in shallow water. Nest in trees, generally in colonies. Fairly common S. R. April 6. Ardea herodias. 194.*

*Large Waders.*

**Black-crowned Night Heron.** L. 24.

Also called Shide-poke and Squawk. *Crown and back greenish black, neck and lower parts pure white.* Young, grayish brown and streaked. Generally seen or heard towards evening; call, *squawk*. Nest in colonies, generally in trees, sometimes on the ground. Often seen at White Bear and Minnetonka. Common S. R., April 12 to Oct. 25. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius.* 202.

**Little Green Heron.** L. 17.

*Back, dark greenish;* throat and part of neck, brownish. Common along wooded streams and lakes, generally flies but a short distance when flushed. Nest low on bushes or trees, not in colonies. Common S. R. *Butorides virescens.* 201.

**American Bittern.** L. 28.

*This bird produces the pumping, thumping noise* heard about marshes in spring. Called also Stake-driver and Thunder-pumper. General color, brown; irregularly streaked and mottled. When the bird raises its head and stands still, he resembles a bunch of dead rushes. *Two black streaks on the neck,* legs greenish, wings and tail short, flies awkwardly. Nest on the ground. Common S. R., May 3 to about Nov. 15. *Botaurus lentiginosus.* 190.

## **2. Smaller Waders and Shore Birds.**

**Killdeer.** L. 10½.

*Calls his name, a loud killdee, killdee kill-dee. Two black bands on white breast, rump brown. Lower parts white, upper parts dull olive-brown. Often seen and heard on dry fields. Nest on the ground. Abundant S. R. Oxyechus vociferus. 273.*

**Spotted Sandpiper.** L. 7½.

Upper parts brownish; lower parts white, much spotted with black. *Everywhere near rivers and ponds. Known by its teetering gait and shrill call of peet weet. Goes through rapid tipping motions, when it alights. Called also Tip-up and Teeter-tail. Common S. R. Actitis macularia. 263.*

**Least Sandpiper.** L. 6.

*The smallest of our shore birds. Upper parts dusky, spotted with brownish, breast gray, rest of lower parts white. Common migrant in spring and fall. Breeds farther north. Actodromas minutilla. 242.*

**Greater-yellow-legs.** L. 14.

*Legs yellow, no brown on bird, above nearly black, marked with whitish, below white with black markings. Feeds on mudflats and in very shallow water. Common on our lakes in autumn. S. R., and M. Totanus melano-leucus. 254.*



## *Water Birds and Shore Birds.*

**Yellow-legs.** L.  $10\frac{3}{4}$ .

Very similar to the preceding, but considerably smaller. Breeds farther north. Common migrant, especially in fall. *Totanus flavipes*. 255.

**Bartramian Sandpiper.** Upland Plover. L.  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

Tail rather long, rump black, upper parts dusky and streaked, chin and belly white. Common S. R. on dry uplands in the Dakotas. Song, a long ringing whistle, sometimes heard at night. *Butramia longicauda*. 261.

**Wilson Snipe.** Jack Snipe. L.  $11\frac{1}{4}$ .

Crown buff and striped, back dusky and striped, belly white. Call, kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk, uttered as the birds take wing. S. R. and migrant on the plains of the Dakotas and eastward. Very bold in defense of its young. *Gallinago delicata*. 230.

**Virginia Rail.** L.  $9\frac{1}{2}$ .

Common in all large marshes. *Often heard but seldom seen.* Difficult to flush. Makes a peculiar grunting noise. Male often cries, *cut, cutta-cutta-cutta*, often heard after sunset. Black above, throat white. Flight weak with dangling legs. *Rallus virginianus*. 212.

*Water Birds and Shore Birds.*

**Carolina Rail. Sora.** L.  $8\frac{1}{2}$ .

Skulks in the rushes like the preceding. *Forehead and throat black*, upper parts brown with black spots and fine whitish lines. Call, *kerwee*, and a penetrating whinney, often uttered at night. This and the preceding are locally called mud-chicks. Common S. R. Occasionally strays into towns in autumn. I found one on Adams street in Chicago on Sept. 3. *Porzana carolina*. 214.

**American Woodcock.** L. 11.

*Bill very long, eyes large, tail short. Flies with a noisy whirr like a quail.* Above a mixed and mottled brown, black and slate. Below brown, without bars. Nest on ground in woods. Rather rare S. R. and M. in damp woods. *Philohela minor*. 228.

## **B. BIRDS THAT SWIM AND DIVE.**

### **1. Coots, Grebes and Loons.**

**American Coot.** Mudhen. L. 15.

*The most common and numerous swimmer on shallow northwestern lakes. I have seen 10,000 of them from one point. Makes a bobbing motion with its head, when swimming. Spatters low over the water with feet and wings when disturbed. Feet lobed, not webbed. General color dark slate, head and neck black, bill whitish. Shows some white on the wings when flying. Has a roundish bill like a chicken and looks like a black chicken that has taken to an aquatic life. Fulica americana. 221.*

**Pied-billed Grebe.** Hell-diver, Dabchick. L. 13½.

In spite of all books this expert diver will always be plain Hell-Diver to the boys. You will find him on lakes, sloughs and ditches. If he is disturbed he dives like a stone and you may not see him again, as he swims away under the water or with just the tip of his bill out. Not seen in large flocks but in pairs or families. General color brownish black, *throat and a band on bill, black; belly white, tail very short. Nest, a mass of water-soaked reeds and rushes. Very common S. R., April 7 to Oct. 20. Podilymbus podiceps. 6.*

## Water Birds and Shore Birds.

### Loon. L. 32.

*Our largest diver.* Seen only on fairly deep and open water where he dives for fish. Often seen on lakes near towns in early spring. Shining black above, with numerous white spots and bars, *white streaks on throat and neck*, visible from some distance, *belly pure white.* *Will seldom fly if disturbed, but dive.* Call, a weird, loud laughter, *who-who-who-who*, most often uttered on the wing. Eggs laid on ground near water. S. R., April 10 to Nov. 3. *Gavia imber.* 7.

NOTE—Coots, Grebes and Loons are often shot at by foolish gunners, no sane person should molest these innocent birds that enliven our lakes.

## 2. Terns, Gulls and Cormorants.

### Black Tern. L. 10.

Wings and tail slate-colored, head and lower parts black, bill black. *This is the dark bird so often seen slowly skimming over lakes, meadows and fields. In flight the bill is always pointed downward.* Often follows the plowman, picks up lost bait near boats. Nest, on floating rushes, etc., or on the ground. Abundant S. R., through Northwest. April 15 to Nov. 10. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis.* 77.

*Terns, Gulls and Cormorants.*

**Bonaparte Gull.** L. 14.

Head and bill black. Neck and lower parts white. Back and wings pearl-gray. Wings tipped with black. Common M. *Larus philadelpica*. 60.

**Franklin Gull.** L. 15.

A beautiful gull, especially numerous on the lakes and plains of North Dakota. *Head black, neck white, back slaty; lower parts white, tinted with rose*, bill and feet red. Often seen on plowed fields and near lakes and sloughs. Nest, on bent-down rushes. S. R. *Larus franklini*. 59.

**Herring Gull.** L. 24.

This is the large gull common on Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes in summer. Often seen in flocks resting on the water or rocks or lumber rafts, or on the wing. *Head, neck and lower parts of adults white, back pearl gray, end of wings black*, bill yellow. *Young, brownish gray*, head and neck streaked, back mottled, generally seen with the adults. S. R. April 11. Common W. V. near Milwaukee and Chicago. *Larus argentatus*. 51.

**Double-crested Cormorant.** L. 30.

A large black swimmer and expert fisher. Seen on our lakes in spring and autumn, a summer resident on Crane Island, Lake Min-

## *Water Birds and Shore Birds.*

netonka. *Back brownish black, neck and lower parts metallic greenish black, throat pouch yellow.* Two narrow crests in breeding plumage. Bill, long and hooked. Young, brownish. S. R. April 1. *Phalacrocorax dilophus.* 120.

### **3. Ducks and Geese.**

Many species of wild ducks breed on our lakes. While the novice will find it difficult to identify them on the water or on the wing, anyone can in fall secure specimens from hunters. Before the hunting season, ducks are not so very wild and may well be observed in their haunts. In many instances the plumage of the adult male is more richly colored than that of the female and the young. Geese are principally seen during the fall and spring migration and are readily identified on the wing.

#### **Blue-winged Teal. L. 16.**

*Our most abundant small duck.* A white crescent before the eye, wings bright blue at base and with a green spot. Females and young less brightly colored. Nest on ground. Abundant S. R. and M. *Querquedula discors.* 140.

#### **Mallard. L. 23.**

*Head of male green, wing patch purple; white ring around neck, breast rich brown.* Female more dull. Our best known large duck. S. R. and M. *Anas boschas.* 132.

## Ducks and Geese.

**Pintail.** L. male, 28; female, 22.

*A large, long-necked duck. Central tail-feathers elongated and forming a pin-shaped tail. Wing-patch purple, bordered by brown above and white below. Female without wing-patch. S. R. and M. *Dafla acuta.* 143.*

**Redhead.** L. 19.

*Head and upper neck of male reddish brown, breast black, upper parts finely barred, belly white. S. R. and M. *Aythya americana.* 146.*

**Canvasback.**

*Head and whole neck of male reddish-brown, breast black, upper parts finely barred, belly white. The bill of the Canvas-back is longer and forms nearly a straight line with the crown, the bill and crown of the Redhead form a well-marked curve. S. R. and M. *Aythya vallisneria.* 147.*

**Shoveller. Spoonbill.** L. 20.

*Bill long and widened, with conspicuous comb-like teeth. Male in breeding plumage gaudily attired in black, white, green and blue. Female brownish, streaked and spotted, wing-patch green. S. R. and M. *Spatula clypeata.* 142.*

## Ducks and Geese.

### Wood Duck. L. 18½.

*Our most beautiful duck. Male and female with drooping crest. Male showing many colors and hues, too complicated to describe here. Female more plain. At home on wooded lakes and rivers. Nest in hollow trees. S. R. and M. Aix sponsa. 144.*

### Green-winged Teal. L. 14½.

In size like the Blue-winged Teal, but not nearly as common, breeds mostly northward and appears late in fall. *Male, sides of head green, rest of head and neck brown, wing-patch green, no blue. Nettion carolinensis. 139.*

### Lesser Scaup Duck. Bluebill, Blackhead. L. 16-17.

*A northern duck, appearing in large numbers late in fall and early in spring. Bill short, bluish, with black tip. Head of male black with greenish gloss, belly and sides white. Female brownish, base of bill and belly whitish. Aythya affinis. 149.*

### Canada Goose. L. 38.

*Our largest wild goose. Neck long, head and neck black with white patch on cheeks and throat, general color a deep gray, tips of feathers lighter. Most commonly seen in fall and spring, flying in long lines and at great height, uttering a wild, sonorous honk, honk. Breeds in undisturbed places. S. R. and M. Branta canadensis. 172.*



## *Ducks and Geese.*

### **Hutchins Goose.** L. 30.

Like the Canada Goose, but smaller. Sometimes flocks with the Canada geese. M. *Branta canadensis hutchinsii*. 172a.

### **Greater Snow Goose.** L. 30-38.

*White, tips of wings black*, easily identified by their snow-white color and black wing tips. Quite noisy when on the wing. M. *Chen hyperborea nivalis*. 169a.

### **Lesser Snow Goose.** L. 23-28.

*Like the preceding, but smaller.* Often flies in V-shaped lines. Both snow geese breed north of the United States. M. *Chen hyperborea*. 169.

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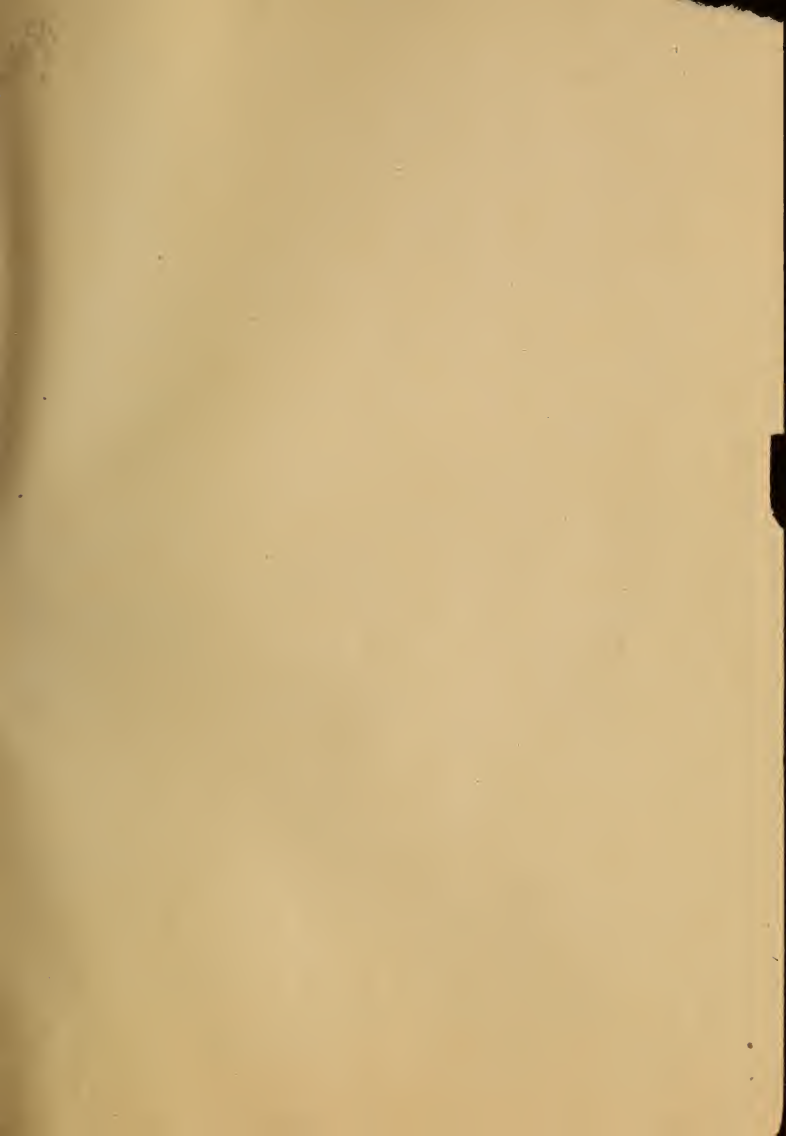
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